

CARROLL THEATER

91 West Main Street

The Carroll Theater's yellow and black glazed tile stepped facade marks the remains of Westminster's fling at Art Deco. Now, much less (unfortunately) ornate than it was originally - having lost its heavy marquee, and having recessed its ticket booth back into the lobby - the building still brings to mind Saturday afternoon at the movies.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0764414924

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Carroll Theater

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

91 West Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

— DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

— STRUCTURE

— SITE

— OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

— PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

— BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

— IN PROCESS

— BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED

— UNOCCUPIED

— WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

— NO

**PRESENT USE**

— AGRICULTURE

☒ COMMERCIAL

— EDUCATIONAL

☒ ENTERTAINMENT

— GOVERNMENT

— INDUSTRIAL

— MILITARY

— MUSEUM

— PARK

— PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— RELIGIOUS

— SCIENTIFIC

— TRANSPORTATION

— OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

The Carroll Amusement Company

Telephone #: 848-5640

STREET & NUMBER

91 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 165

Folio #: 573

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**


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The Carroll Theater, Westminster's fling at Art Deco, looks north towards West Main Street (St. Route 32). Each of the two stories on the principal facade composes a separate entity, with the marquee at the center. The ground floor, sheathed in black glazed tiles, can further be broken into thirds: the center is strictly used for theater purposes (consisting of show-cases for ads and so on) and a door, but to the east and west are equal-sized shops, at present occupied by a loan organization to the east, and "Your Hairdresser" to the west. The plate glass entrance door to the theater, are, as noted, placed in the center of the facade and are diagonally recessed about 15 feet from the street. The doors lead to a small, fairly-plain lobby, where one may purchase tickets before proceeding through an array of doors, pass a central candy counter, to the auditorium itself.

The upper half of the principal facade, laid in mustard-colored common bond brick, consists of 5 sections created by the layering of 3 planes on top of each other. Each of these sections has a pair of 3-light, metal-framed casement windows. Each plane is continued upwards for a different distance, creating a four-step skyline (the center plane has a raised central section). A band of three, parallel, black-tiled lines runs across the entire facade always equal distance from the top of the wall, thereby creating, in their zigs and zags, an echo of the roof line.

The five course common bond east and west walls are given interest by some International Style curves to the rear of the building. A pair of 9-light casement windows is rather pathetically lost towards the north of the east and west walls. The horizontal sweep evident on the east wall is interfered with to the west by a huge brick and metal container for the air conditioning machinery. Although necessary, and probably desirable to be known when the theater was built (how much more effective it is to see the unit then to trust in "Ten Degrees Colder Inside" icicle-fringed blue signs) this great western box does destroy the subtle excitement and tension created by the continuous small rise from the rear of the building along the sides finally climaxing in the center of the principal facade.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

CARR-441

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1938

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Carroll Theater is, as noted, Westminster's only full-fledged acknowledgment of the Art Deco movement. Although one might today wish for a little more decoration, a little more frivolity, the building we do get is certainly a satisfactory small-town specimen of that very popular style.

Curiously, and probably unconsciously, the ground floor of the building contains elements from older local traditions; its tripartite composition, and its central diagonally-recessed door. It might be interesting to know whether the architect included these motifs accidentally (he could have had the ticked window flush with the street, for example), or intentionally. In any event, it's a thought worth raising, but not worth dwelling upon.

Isaac Shriver, who owned much land just to the west of the then City limits, sold lots 2 and 3 of "Pigman's Addition" to Alfred Troxell for \$300 on December 11, 1849 (Carroll County Deed Book 12, Page 450). Troxell's widow, Rachel, then sold the lots to Ela E. Albaugh on January 13, 1890 (70/444). It is clear that Troxell built structures on his property; they appear on the 1877 tax map, and the 1887 City Directory lists the offices of Dr. Wells and Botts, 91 West Main, and the store of one M. L. Main at 93. Mrs. Troxell's executor, John H. Six, sold the lots and the buildings for \$3500 to Ezra Bish on August 5, 1909 (112/178), who sold them to Fannie K. Royer and Edna May Gist on February 24, 1917 (147/476). These ladies then transferred title to Weslie A. Pickens on June 13, 1929 (152/498), and he through straw deeds (both dated March 29, 1937, and both recorded on the same page, 165/573), sold the land to its present owner, who, presumably, then built the theater we see today.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being lot no. 2 of B. S. Pigman's Addition to Westminster.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

April

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

43% 9 65%



CARR-441

43<sup>00</sup>% - Inventory  
Section E-4

#198 - History Section  
Ch. 10

65%

P. #416

CARR 441

91 W. Main St. Washinstate

NW Juvenile

C. Wechs 2/77





CARR 441

91 W. Main St. Waterville

SW juvenile

< Wechs 3/77